Nagar Darshan Package

†107. SHRl KESHUBHAI S. PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the railways have introduced "Nagar Darshan" package from the major cities of the country;

(b) if so, whether Government have included the major cities of Gujarat in this programme; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R.VELU): (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, Indian Railways Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) a Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) has introduced its own Day City Tour only at Chennai, for the benefit of the tourists who need to wait for the onward train. This tour has also been planned on other Major Metro Cities namely Delhi, Kolkata and Mumbai. Further, tours are not being planned by IRCTC till performance of these tours is reviewed by them.

Vacancy in Railways

108. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Railways has observed that Government have, so far, has not filled up the 89,000 vacancies in the safety wings which thereby is affecting the safety of passengers;

(b) if so, whether any steps are being taken to fill up the said vacancies and what additional measures are being taken to ensure the passengers' safety;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No Sir. In its 20th report, the Standing Committee on Railways have observed that "Safety Category itself has around 84,000 vacancies".

(b) to (d) Arising and filling up of vacancies is a continuous process. Vacancies arise due to normal retirements, voluntary retirements, death, etc. and are filled up through open market recruitment, regularization of substitutes, compassionate appointments and promotions. Requisite steps are taken for filling up the vacancies through open market and suitability tests are held regularly in respect of promotional quota vacancies. However, all steps are taken to ensure safety.

Rail Lines in North Eastern Region

109. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of total length of railway lines in North Eastern Region as on 30th June, 2007;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi